MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Food Corporation of India (FCI) has reported that 20.43 lakh MTs, 39.65 lakh MTs and 67.93 lakh MTs of wheat have been lifted from the Central Pool by exporters during the years 2000-01, 2001 -02 and 2002-03 respectively. Similarly, 0.42 lakh MTs, 23.50 lakh MTs and 80.72 lakh MTs of rice have been lifted for export from the Central Pool during the above periods.

Wheat and rice are offered to exporters at Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) prices, which are fixed by the Government from time to time based on crop-year, variety and location of stocks. Post delivery and other WTO compatible expenses are allowed to them.

(c) Government of India reimburses the difference between economic cost and the sale price of foodgrains, as food subsidy.

Cost of buffer stock of foodgrains

†1240. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the value of the buffer stock of grains in the Food Corporation of India in the year 1996-97 was Rs. 827 crore which has increased to Rs. 8066 crores in the year 2002-03;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for this tremendous increase in value together with the contribution of each of reasons for tremendous increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) In 1996-97 the carrying cost of buffer stock of grains in the FCI was Rs. 827 crore which increased to Rs. 6279 crore in 2002-03 (RE).

(c) The increase in the value of the buffer stock of grains in 2002-03 (RE) in comparison to 1996-97 is due to:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(i) Inclusion of freight, transit shortages and carry-over charges on wheat being paid to the State Government and other agencies in the buffer carrying cost as per the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC). As a result of inclusion of these elements in the buffer carrying cost, the value has increased by Rs. 3222 crore.

(ii) Due to heavy procurement and lower offtake, FCI carried 130.68 lakh tonnes of buffer stock in 2002-03 (RE) in comparison to 50.79 lakh tonnes in 1996-97. The additional expenditure on this account would be Rs. 1301 crore at 1996-97 rates.

(iii) The balance increase in 2002-03 (RE) is on account of increase interest and handling costs.

Sale of foodgrains for export

†1241. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India had fixed target for the sale of wheat and rice for export during the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the quantum of such wheat and rice separately; and

(c) the sale price fixed for wheat and rice and to what extent this sale price is less than the Economic Cost of the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) There are no quantitative restrictions on export of foodgrains from the Central Pool except that the stocks should not be lower than the highest of the quarterly buffer stocking norms.

(c) Wheat and rice are offered to exporters at Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) prices, fixed by the Government from time to time, based on crop year, variety and location of stocks. Post Delivery and other WTO Compatible expenses are allowed to them. The difference

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